

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio (619) 557-7843***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 25, 2005**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that CESAR GOMEZ-TABOADA pled guilty today to transporting illegal aliens, resulting in death, before United States District Court Judge Jeffrey T. Miller. The guilty plea was the result of a plea agreement, through which GOMEZ-TABOADA agreed to plead guilty to Count 2 of an eight-count indictment, which was returned by the federal grand jury on August 25, 2004. GOMEZ-TABOADA is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Miller on June 6, 2005.

GOMEZ-TABOADA was indicted on charges relating to his transportation of eleven undocumented persons in a Ford Explorer on July 31, 2004. On that date, GOMEZ-TABOADA lost control of the Explorer while driving in East San Diego County, causing the vehicle to roll over, and resulting in the death of Maria Isabel De La Cruz, one of the vehicle's passengers.

U.S. Attorney Lam stated, "Preying on desperate people is bad enough; to have jeopardized their lives is despicable."

**DEFENDANT**

CESAR GOMEZ-TABOADA

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE OF CONVICTION**

18 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a)(1)(A(ii), (v)(II), and (a)(1)(B)(iv) (bringing in an illegal alien resulting in death)  
Maximum penalty: life imprisonment; \$250,000 fine

**AGENCIES**

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Human Trafficking Unit  
California Highway Patrol  
United States Border Patrol